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Please confirm your name

Debbie Nez-Manuel

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The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided protections for 2.8 million Arizonans living with a pre-existing condition and has provisions that extend care to former foster youth, school-aged children, and hundreds of thousands for Arizonans. However, the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act is under review by the Supreme Court. Do you support efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act?

No

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Comments on the Affordable Care Act

In Arizona, according to the Economic Policy Institute, repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would be extremely detrimental to Arizona families - affecting approximately 10% of the U.S. population currently on ACA. Not only would healthcare be under assault, but the Arizona workforce and economy would be as well; almost 42,000 Arizona employees would lose their jobs. Additionally, Native American populations in Maricopa County alone are between 150K and 200K and often are ineligible for Indian Health Services or contract if they have been living outside tribal jurisdictions for more than six months. According to the Census, here in legislative district 26, 4% of the population is Native American. These data do not reflect the migratory culture of the Native American populations in urban communities and are likely much higher than reported.

4

Medicaid is a major source of federal funds in Arizona, with every dollar of state investment drawing down \$3.20 in federal funds. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) projects a major state budget shortfall in the next state fiscal year (FY2021). Would you support cuts to Medicaid provider rates, member eligibility, or covered benefits in order to make up for state budget shortfalls?

No

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Comments on Medicaid

No, I would not support cuts to Medicaid provider rates, member eligibility, or covered benefits in order to make up for state budget shortfalls. The unintended result would be that doctors may reduce the time dedicated to patients using public resources and who would provide the services for over 1.7 million people in Arizona. We need to find the budget to ensure coverage is available to doctors at the fullest rate possible.

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The Invest in Education Act is a ballot proposition that restores hundreds of millions of dollars annually in K-12 education funding to solve the teacher-shortage crisis, lower class sizes, hire aides and counselors, and expand career and technical education. It raises the state income tax rate for income above \$250,000 for individuals and for income above \$500,000 for households. Do you support the Invest in Education ballot proposition to raise new resources dedicated to public schools?

Yes

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Comments on Invest in Education

I support the Invest Education Act that expected to raise \$940 Million annually for K-12 in Education especially when we continue to rank 49th in the U.S in teacher pay. I support increasing the base compensation that supports educators, support services, and much more. I support permanent solutions for our classrooms, students, and ways to sustain qualified teachers.

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The Arizona Education Progress Meter recognizes that children with access to quality, early learning opportunities are more prepared for kindergarten. As they go forward in school and in life, they are less likely to need special education or be held back a grade. They are more likely to graduate high school and go on to college. But many children start kindergarten already behind their peers. Only 21 percent of Arizona preschool-aged children today benefit from quality, early learning in child care and preschool compared to the progress meter goal of 45 percent by 2030. Will you support using state and federal child care funds to connect more young children with quality, early learning in preschool and child care to move Arizona toward the progress meter goal?

Yes

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Comments on early learning

As a social worker, my understanding of the life span development of the brain begins in utero and how vital early intervention impacts the success of students while they are learning the fundamentals in elementary education. The risks of not acting by not passing budget or legislation create negative impacts on secondary education, the workforce, and strong families.

10

In 2018, 13 percent of children in Arizona (204,363) were being raised by their grandparents or other relatives. In many instances, these relatives have stepped up to care for children who were being abused and neglected, keeping them safe and out of the foster care system. Nationally, informal kinship caregivers keep millions of children out of the overburdened child welfare system and save taxpayers more than \$4 billion each year. Even prior to the COVID-19 crisis, these families faced barriers to securing adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. Before the Great Recession, kinship caregivers were able to access "child-only" benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF), also known as cash assistance. These benefits helped these families meet the critical basic needs of the relative children in their care. Do you support restoring access to "child-only" TANF benefits for children who are being raised by kin?

Yes

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Comments on kinship families

Having personal experiences in Informal Kinship setting and foster care, I saw first hand how families struggled as caregivers. Kinship and foster families do need vital support for meals, access to health care, support for glasses, clothing, counseling, and much more. I commend and will stand up for families who make room for some of our most vulnerable populations.

12

The events over the last few weeks have brought widespread focus on the systemic racism that is deeply embedded in our society. If elected, would you hold your colleagues and other elected officials accountable to specific criminal justice and police reforms for systemic change.

Yes

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A free space for your comments

Absolutely. We must do more for acknowledging the historical wrongs against all people. Here in Arizona, we must first begin to recognize the injustices against Indigenous people and removal of first people, the deeply rooted racism that impacts lives, our economy, our workforce, and make critical changes that will positively impact the way we raise families in Arizona.

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To receive a record of your responses please provide your email

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